

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reply Comments to 05-235

In reviewing the comments made to RPRM Docket #05-235, it seems that there are 3 different camps of opinion when it comes to elimination of Morse Code testing from the Amateur Radio examinations.

(1) The majority of the commenters favor approving the NPRM.

Reply to Comments:

- a. I agree with this group, as per my earlier comments.
- b. Some of the comments in this group propose changes to the licensing structure that are outside the scope of this NPRM.

(2) Commenters favor doing away with Morse Code testing for the General Class, but not for the Extra Class.

Reply to Comments:

- a. Although my feeling is that the Extra Class license is already too easy, but keeping the Morse Code requirement does little, if anything to increase the technical skills of an Extra Class licensee. I have always favored the apprentice/Journeyman approach, where one has to have time in grade to advance to the next level.

(3) Commenters are completely opposed to removing the Morse Code requirement from any class of license.

Reply to Comments:

- a. Many of the commenters stated that we must keep Morse Code in case of an emergency. During one of this nations worst disasters, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in which Amateur Radio played a most important roll, little of the traffic was handled using Morse Code. Most of it was either using Single Sideband or one of the other digital modes such as PSK31 or RTTY.
- b. The statements that Morse Code is the most efficient method of transmitting messages is also not true. There are modes now that can decode messages below what the human ear can detect.
- c. I believe that most of these commenters are “dyed in the wool” CW operators that have a fear that if Morse Code is eliminated from the requirements, it will soon fade away. I don’t think that is true, as there will always be enthusiasts that continue the mode.
- d. These commenters have stated that removing the requirement for Morse Code testing will lower the standards of the hobby. I

believe just the opposite will occur, as we attract more licensee's with a higher technical skill level. In my profession as an Electrical Engineer, I have had numerous inquiries about Amateur Radio, only to have the question asked, "Do you still have to know Morse Code?". This has been a roadblock for many years to highly technical people, that don't care to learn about a mode of transmission that they will never use.

- e. These commenters also fear that the hobby will be overrun with "CBers". I remember the same comments were made when the Morse Code requirement was eliminated from the Technician Class testing. There are probably more ex "CBers" with an Extra class license than Technician.

I urge the Commission to approve this action.

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